



**WASHINGTON STATE PATROL – FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU
INSPECTION SECTION**

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Winterizing: Generators and Fire Sprinkler Pipes

With the coming of cold weather, now is the time to prepare your generators and fire sprinkler systems for winter. Each system requires individual attention. Failure to service the systems for cold weather could result in costly repairs and could jeopardize the health and safety of personnel and residents.

Generators:

Batteries:

- Replace if over 3 years in age.
- Check battery voltage.

Coolant Anti-Freeze:

- Check for proper level.
- Ensure mixture is set for your local temperatures.
- Engine Block Heaters: Check for proper operation.
- Exercises: Running the unit each week with load not only helps eliminate any moisture buildup, but verifies operation of all components. Be sure to run the unit long enough to reach operating temperature. The minimum is one 30 -minute load test monthly.

Sprinkler Systems:

Pipes:

- Check auxiliary drains and drum drains on dry systems for water build up from condensation and drain any water found.
- For dry systems that do not have auxiliary drains or drum drains, facilities need to check grade and pitch on pipes to prevent pooling of water. This is usually not done by contractors during the annual inspections.
- Check pipes for proper insulation.
- Check attics for any insulation moved due to work performed.
- If the dry system is having constant low air alarms, this could be an indication of leaking pipes.

Prevention is always the quickest, easiest and least expensive way to avoid weather-related problems with your life safety system. Being proactive will cut down on costly damage as well as repairs, and it will help keep personnel and property safe all winter long.

Resources for Licensed Care Facilities - http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/insp_resources.htm.